

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for processing service requests in a first device in a storage  
2 network comprising:  
3                   receiving a connection request from a sending device;  
4                   obtaining manufacture-related information associated with the sending device;  
5 and  
6                   responding to the sending device in a positive manner or in a negative manner  
7 based on a comparison of the manufacture-related information with manufacture-related  
8 information contained in an access control table,  
9                   wherein responding in a positive manner will permit subsequent data  
10 communication between the first device and the sending device,  
11                   wherein responding in a negative manner will prevent subsequent data  
12 communication between the first device and the sending device.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1 wherein the connection request is a fabric login,  
2 wherein the manufacture-related information includes information representative of the  
3 manufacturer of the sending device.

1                   3.       The method of claim 2 wherein the step of responding to the sending  
2 device includes determining whether the manufacturer is listed in the access control table.

1                   4.       The method of claim 3 wherein the manufacture-related information  
2 further includes version information, wherein the step of responding to the sending device  
3 further includes determining comparing the version information with version information in  
4 the access control table.

1                   5.       The method of claim 2 wherein the access control table includes access  
2 permission information associated with the manufacturer, wherein the step of responding to  
3 the sending device in a positive manner or in a negative manner is based on the access  
4 permission information.

1                   6.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a disk system.

1                   7.       The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a host bus  
2 adapter (HBA).

1                    8.        The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a switch.

1                    9.        The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a second disk  
2 system.

1                    10.      The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a switch and the  
2 sending device is an HBA.

1                    11.      The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a first switch and the  
2 sending device is a second switch.

1                    12.      The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is an HBA.

1                    13.      An access method in a storage network comprising:  
2                    receiving a service request in a first storage network device, the service  
3 request originating from a second storage network device, the first storage network device  
4 being configured to perform a plurality of services;  
5                    obtaining identifying information from the service request that is  
6 representative of an identity of the second storage network device;  
7                    based on the identifying information determining which of the services are  
8 associated with the second storage network device;  
9                    if the service request is for a service that is associated with the second storage  
10 network device, then performing the service request; and  
11                    if the service request is not for a service that is associated with the second  
12 storage network device, the producing an appropriate negative response, thereby indicating to  
13 the second network storage device that the service will not be performed by the first storage  
14 network device.

1                    14.      The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is a  
2 disk system.

1                    15.      The method of claim 14 wherein the identifying information is a  
2 source address contained in the service request.

1                    16.      The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is a  
2 switch.

1                    17.     The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is an  
2 HBA.

1                    18.     A storage network device configured to perform the method steps of  
2 claim 13.

1                    19.     The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network  
2 device is a disk system.

1                    20.     The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network  
2 device is a switch.

1                    21.     The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network  
2 device is an HBA.

1                    22.     A storage network device comprising:  
2                    data processing component; and  
3                    a communication port in data communication with the data processing  
4 component, and operable for communication with a second storage network device,  
5                    the data processing component comprising a memory component, the memory  
6 component configured with an access control table, the access control table comprising  
7 manufacture-related information for a first plurality of storage network devices,  
8                    the data processing component configured to perform the method steps of:  
9                                       exchanging data via the communication port, including receiving a  
10 connection request that was communicated from the second storage network device;  
11                                       obtaining manufacture-related information relating to the second  
12 storage network device based on information contained in the connection request;  
13                                       producing a response based on a comparison of the manufacture-  
14 related information relating to the second storage network device and manufacture-  
15 related information contained in the access control table, the response being a positive  
16 response or a negative response; and  
17                                       exchanging data via the communication port to communicate the  
18 response to the second storage network device.

1                   23.     The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the connection request  
2 is one of a fabric login and a port login.

1                   24.     The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the comparison  
2 includes a comparison of a vendor identification relating to the second storage network  
3 device with a list of vendor identifiers in the access control table.

1                   25.     The storage network device of claim 24 wherein the comparison  
2 further includes a comparison of version information relating to the second storage network  
3 device with version information contained in the access control table.

1                   26.     The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the storage network  
2 device is a disk system.

1                   27.     The storage network device of claim 26 wherein the second storage  
2 network device is one of an HBA, a switch, and a second disk system.

1                   28.     The storage network device of claim 27 wherein the connection request  
2 is one of a fabric login and a port login.

1                   29.     The storage network device of claim 27 wherein the comparison  
2 includes a comparison of a vendor identification relating to the second storage network  
3 device and a list of vendor identifiers in the access control table.

1                   30.     The storage network device of claim 22 wherein storage network  
2 device is a switch.

1                   31.     The storage network device of claim 22 wherein storage network  
2 device is an HBA.

1                   32.     A storage network device comprising:  
2 a data processing component;  
3 a data storage component operably coupled to the data processing component;  
4 and  
5 a communication port configured for communication with a second storage  
6 network device,  
7 the data storage component operable to perform the method steps of:

8                   receiving a connection request from the second storage network  
9                   device, the connection request being a fabric login request or a port login request;  
10                  obtaining vendor identification information from the connection  
11                  request;  
12                  producing a response based on the vendor identification information;  
13                  and  
14                  sending the response to the second storage network device,  
15                  wherein if the response is a positive response, then subsequent  
16                  communication between the storage network device and the second storage network  
17                  device is possible,  
18                  wherein if the response is a negative response, then subsequent  
19                  communication between the storage network device and the second storage network  
20                  device is not possible,  
21                  wherein the subsequent communication comprises storage access  
22                  requests for access to the data storage component.

1                   33.     The storage network device of claim 32 wherein the second storage  
2                   network device is one of an HBA, a switch, and a disk system.